

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-21, 23-31, 33-44 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 12, 22, and 32 are cancelled. Claims 1, 3-6, 10, 11, 13-16, 20, 21, 23-26, 30, 31, 33-36, and 40 are amended. Claims 41-44 are added. No new subject matter has been added. In view of following comments, allowance of all the claims pending in the application is respectfully requested.

Regarding the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 20, 2004, Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the listed references as acknowledged by the signed and initialed form PTO-1449.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 10, 20, 30 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. This rejection is traversed in view of the clarifying amendments made to these claims, which are believed to cure the indefiniteness of the claimed invention.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-8, 10-18, 20-28, 30-38 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Shanahan *et al.* (European Patent Application EP 1143356, published October 10, 2001). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the following basis.

Independent claim 1 recites transmitting at least one work request regarding at least a portion of information content to a first work queue, processing the at least one work request by generating a meta-document representation of the portion of the information content, and analyzing the meta-document representation, among other things. Independent claim 11 recites a work request transmitting module that transmits at least one work request regarding at least a portion of information content to a first work queue, a work request processing module that processes the at least one work request by generating a meta-document representation of the

portion of the information content, and an information content processing module that analyzes the meta-document representation, among other things. Independent claim 21 recites work request transmitting means for transmitting at least one work request regarding at least a portion of information content to a first work queue, work request processing means for processing the at least one work request, and information content processing means for analyzing the meta-document representation, among other things. Independent claim 31 recites work request transmitting code that causes a processor to transmit at least one work request regarding at least a portion of information content to a first work queue, work request processing code that causes a processor to process the at least one work request by generating a meta-document representation of the portion of the information content, and information content processing code that causes a processor to analyze the meta-document representation, among other things. In an exemplary embodiment, a work request may be transmitted to a persistent work queue using a work request transmitting module (see the Specification at page 9, lines 13-15). The work request may be processed using a work request processing module. The work request processing module may include converting portions of the gathered information stored in the repository into one of more meta-document representations in XML format (see the Specification at page 9, lines 15-18). The meta-document representations may then be analyzed by an information content processing module (see the Specification at page 9, line 22 – page 10, line 2). The analysis of the meta-document representation may include indexing, categorization, metrics extraction, or other analyzing (see the Specification at page 9, line 22 – page 10, line 2).

While Shanahan appears to disclose a system capable of turning a document into a meta-document (see Shanahan at paragraph 0031), Shanahan does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of the claimed invention. The Examiner alleges that, in response to a work request, a service provider processes a document to provide five services (see the Office Action at page 2, lines 22-24). The Examiner further asserts that the processed document is then processed a second time by scheduler (see the Office Action at page 2, line 24 – page 3, line 3). However, the Examiner admits that the *only processing that transpires at the scheduler is the forwarding of the document* back to a repository (see the Office Action at page 3, lines 2 and 3). Therefore, Shanahan does not disclose transmitting at least one work request regarding at least a portion of information content to a first work queue, processing the at least one work request by generating

a meta-document representation of the portion of the information content, and *analyzing* the meta-document representation.

In view of the foregoing differences between claims 1, 11, 21, and 31 and the cited art, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 11, 21, and 31 are believed to be allowable over these references. Further, claims 3-7, 10, 13-18, 20, 23-28, 30, 33-38, and 40 are believed to be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 9, 19, 29 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shanahan *et al.* in view of Official Notice. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the following basis.

Examiner admits that Shanahan is deficient at least for not disclosing the use of CORBA. Examiner alleges that CORBA was well known in the art. Even if the Examiner's allegation is accepted, these claims depend from claims 1, 11, 21, and 31 and therefore are distinguishable over the cited prior art as set forth above.

NEWLY ADDED CLAIMS

Claims 41-44 are newly added by this amendment. These claims depend from claims 1, 11, 21, and 31 and therefore are distinguishable over the cited prior art as set forth above.

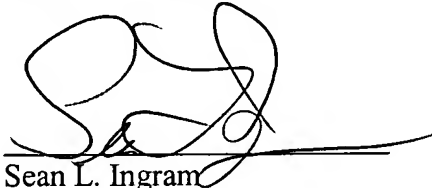
CONCLUSION

Having addressed each of the foregoing rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Dated: August 5, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. L. Ingram', written over a horizontal line.

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